

Abraham Lincoln papers

From Mrs. Luther Fowler [George Washington] to Abraham Lincoln, March 19, 1865

Stono plantation. March 19th/65.

Most respected friend

I take this opportunity this holy Sabbath day to try to express my gratitude and love to you. With many tears I send you this note through prayers and I desire to render you a thousand thanks that you have brought us from the yoke of bondage and I love you freely. I am now 53 years old. Inauguration day was also my birth-day. I have come 278 miles from Savannah and from there to Hilton Head. I have lain awake four nights and my mind so bore upon you that I could not rest till I sent you a letter. I lived in Butts Co. Ga. I am obliged to send you this to satisfy my mind. I wish you all the blessings that can be restored by the Almighty.

I would be glad to go back to see my family. I do love my wife and children. I have been a Baptist member for 25 years and I have been praying for this for 17 years. At that time I had a vision and you was made known to me in a dream. I saw a comet come from the North to the South and I said good Lord what is that? I heard a voice "There shall be wars & rumors of wars" I saw many signs and wonders. My soul is filled with joy at the pleasure of letting you know. I have had a heap of high mountains and deep waters to cross. My master threatened my life if I should talk about this. But I just put all my trust in the Lord and I believe he has brought me conqueror through. I give my mind to pray for you the balance of my days. It would satisfy me if you would condescend to send me an answer to this on account of my fellow servants. If you should answer please direct to Mrs Luther Fowler. Stono plan—

Hilton. Head. S.C.

Yours with the greatest esteem

George Washington.

P.S. I have written the above precisely as dictated by a poor colored man who came to me in a flood of tears and begged me to write to the President for him. It is so entirely expressive of the feelings of all "Freedmen", that I send it. We have a large mission school in our house attended by nearly 500 people. A large number of them are adults and if it would not be too great an intrusion on your time I would be happy to receive a note from you for the "Freedmen" of the island.



Yours with respect

Mrs L Fowler